

are in the field, so that we can honor them in this way.

Mr. REID. It would be more appropriate then that we leave that full time. I will find some time later in the day to speak. We should give the full time for people to speak. Senator NELSON is here early, Senator LINCOLN, and Senator CRAPO. We have a lot of people here to speak. I will give my speech at a later time. I am sure he might approve of that.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Madam President, I am grateful to Senator REID for making that concession. Senator Moynihan had the greatest respect of all of us. I hope we will all honor him, and the Senator allowing us to go forward with this hour that we intend to set aside every day we are in battle in Iraq is very helpful. I appreciate it very much.

Madam President, I know Senator VOINOVICH has a special message about the invocation this morning, and then we would like to proceed. Senator LINCOLN will be managing the floor for the Democrats. I and Senator CRAPO will be managing the floor for the Republicans.

Madam President, the majority leader, Senator FRIST, and the minority leader, Senator DASCHLE, have agreed that the Senate will open every day now with this hour of tribute to our troops. It will be set aside for that purpose only as our way of letting them know that we will remember everything they are doing, we think of them every day, and we appreciate their service to our country. This is our way to emphasize that this is first and foremost on our minds, and everything we do will be with them in mind.

I thank the Chair.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will now be a period for the transaction of morning business not to extend beyond the hour of 11 a.m., with the time to be equally divided between the two leaders or their designees.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. I yield to the Senator from Ohio.

Mr. VOINOVICH. I thank the Chair.

THE GUEST CHAPLAIN

Mr. VOINOVICH. Madam President, I thank the majority leader for the hospitality he extended to Rev. Glen W. Warner. I have had the pleasure of knowing Reverend Warner for many years. He is a remarkable person who has a distinguished record of service to his community in northeast Ohio in two vocations—as a spiritual leader of the Second Congregational Church and a leader in his family's business, the

Molded Fiber Glass Companies, which is one of the area's leading employers.

I have been very impressed over the years that he has been so successful in both of these very different careers. He has ministered to people's spiritual and temporal needs and he has made a real difference in the community.

Reverend Warner has volunteered for several community organizations including serving on the board of the Ashtabula Foundation.

His church is the one in which Reverend Warner and his wife, Nancy, who joins him today were married. In his business career, Reverend Warner travels throughout North America and Europe to develop new markets and new products for the company which was founded by his father-in-law, Robert S. Morrison.

Reverend Glen Warner is a wonderful role model for anyone, and his unique, dual-career underscores the fact that one can be successful in business and in serving the Lord. That one can exercise his spiritual purpose in the realm of his secular responsibility in the great tradition of the English parliamentarian and leader, William Wilburforce.

I am so happy that his wife, Nancy, and his granddaughter Tyra Miller and her friend Keisha Gilbert joined Reverend Warner in the Chamber today as he led the opening prayer at today's session of the United States Senate.

Reverend Glen Warner is a good friend and I am proud to have him here as the guest Chaplain. I encourage Members of the Senate, as they come to the Chamber, if they get a chance, to meet Reverend Warner. He is truly an inspiration.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Texas.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Madam President, I will take some time this morning to show some pictures that speak more than 1,000 words. They are pictures from the field. They show how the mightiest force in the world is connecting with people on an individual basis.

I start with a picture showing PFC Joseph DeWitt, age 26, of the 7th Cavalry Regiment carrying an Iraqi boy who was injured Tuesday, March 26, in the fight at Al Faysaliyah. The picture speaks for what America is. Here is this private, 26 years old, carrying this little boy to safety. You can see the terror on his face, of the little boy who is saved today because Private DeWitt cared.

An unidentified U.S. soldier gives candy to Iraqi boys as he patrols in the southern border city of Safwan, Friday, March 21. Waving Iraqi civilians greeted members of the 1st Marine Division as they entered the town of Safwan.

An Iraqi child waves as a convoy of 3rd Brigade, 101st Airborne Division drives through a southern Iraqi town Sunday, March 23, 2003.

Children wave at members of the British 2nd Royal Tank Regiment as

they arrive in Basra, southern Iraq, Saturday, March 22.

All of the missing in action and POWs in this conflict are from Texas bases. They are either from Fort Hood or Fort Bliss.

In addition to the great mission, I feel a personal connection in this conflict because I know the pain and agony the loved ones are going through at this time and, of course, I think every day, every hour, every minute about those who are actually in captivity or about whom we do not know. I have tried to make contact with as many as I could. It has been difficult because many of them are in such stress they probably do not want to talk to people they do not know or members of the press who might be calling them.

I have not connected with all of them. However, every conversation I have had has been uplifting. I have gotten more out of these conversations than I could ever give back. I have talked this morning to Michelle Williams, the wife of CWO David Williams, from Fort Hood, one of those captured by the Iraqis when the Apache helicopter he was in crashed. Michelle is also in the service. She is at Fort Hood. I talked to her this morning. She has not been talking to the press but one of her major concerns is that somehow she could get a message to her husband: That she is thinking of him, that she loves him very much, that their children are fine, but she just wants some way to make sure that message gets to him—if it is the Red Cross that could take a letter; we will certainly try to be helpful, as the Army will try to be helpful—if it is a message he might hear, that she has given, we want to do everything possible to try to get that message to him. She is strong and brave and waiting for a happy reunion with her husband when he is able to come home.

I talked to Mark Kennedy and his wife, Mrs. Kennedy, this morning. They are the parents of Brian Kennedy who was killed in action when his helicopter crashed in Kuwait. Brian was their only son. Again, they said to me the personal outpouring of support and love and attention they have received because of the loss of their son has made their ordeal better. They feel the Army has done everything it can to make this terrible situation as positive as possible. They asked me to take a message to the President, which I will certainly do. They said, please tell the President that they support him, that their son had called in just 2 days before he was lost. He said: Don't worry about me. We are good to go. We have been trained. We believe in this mission.

Mr. and Mrs. Kennedy want us to know that they supported Brian Kennedy and what he was doing. They know the importance of this action to freedom for everyone in America.

I will take that message to the President because these are people who have

taken the greatest loss imaginable. They understand their son will be forever respected and revered by Americans in perpetuity, for the loss that they have and the giving of his life to make sure that our way of life is enduring in perpetuity, that freedom and America as the beacon of freedom to the world will prevail because of people such as Brian Kennedy and CWO David Williams.

Those are just two families with whom I have had contact. They are very special people. Their families are very special people. We owe them a great debt of gratitude. I know all Americans feel that as well.

I am pleased to be able to start this tribute to our troops as we will do every day our troops are in the field protecting us, to let them know how much we care and how brave we know they are as we watch on television the kinds of weather they are enduring, in addition to all of the normal horrors of war, sandstorms that are so thick it looks as if it is night when it is day. They are enduring a lot for us, and we want them to know we appreciate it.

My last word is that I hope anyone who hears our message will not forget the Geneva Convention; that the treatment of our prisoners of war—and any we do not know who are prisoners—will be humane and in line with the Geneva Convention because I know for sure America is giving medical treatment, food, water, and care to those Iraqi prisoners. We would always comply with the norms of war, including humane treatment of prisoners. I hope if there is any modicum of honesty and integrity in the Iraqi military, they will be treating our prisoners in like manner to the way their prisoners are being treated.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arkansas.

Mrs. LINCOLN. Madam President, I am pleased to be here for the second continuing day of the Senate's tribute to the troops. I compliment my colleague from Texas. I thank her for being here this morning. We talked about how important it is for the entire Senate to come and talk frequently about our troops so they do know we are solidly behind them and making sure they know our thoughts and prayers are with them.

I yield time now to the Senator from Nebraska, Mr. NELSON.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nebraska.

Mr. NELSON of Nebraska. Madam President, I thank my colleague from Arkansas for yielding time to speak this morning and compliment the Senator from Texas for a very graphic expression of the treatment of the Iraqi people by our military.

I rise today to show my support for our troops, both those serving abroad and those providing vital support here at home and their families.

Our men and women in uniform have proven over and over that they are the

best military force in the history of the world. Today I would like to pay tribute to their bravery and their continued commitment to America and to freedom. Americans show their gratitude through words and through deeds. But often it seems like that is not quite enough. Our soldiers on the frontlines are putting their own lives at risk in defense of this Nation and the freedoms we unfortunately sometimes take for granted. We cannot match that sacrifice, but we can do our utmost to let them know that the entire Nation is united behind them.

As we fight battles in Iraq and continue our military presence in Afghanistan, Bosnia, South Korea, and other nations around the world, it is more important now than ever that we pledge ourselves to honoring the commitments we make to our troops, just as they honor our country through their service.

And we must pledge that we will all support and comfort their families while they are deployed. It is very difficult to be separated from loved ones in the best of circumstances—I hope that all our military men and women know that we will help their families through this difficult period until they are able to come back home and rejoin their families.

I would also like to express my gratitude to the service personnel deployed stateside, at bases like Offutt Air Force Base in Bellevue, NE and the National Guard headquarters in Lincoln and all those who serve all over the country serving in similar capacities. Through their work maintaining equipment, keeping our intelligence channels open, and keeping our homeland safe, they continue to ensure that our nation has the best run, best trained, and best staffed military in the history of the world.

We must also recognize the changing face of our military. No longer are our Nation's armed forces primarily composed of full-time troops. Now, a sizable number of our service members are reservists and guardsmen. We do not make the distinction of the troops in the field who are active duty, ready Reserves or Guard members. We should not make a distinction in our policies that affect them. This week, this Chamber spoke with one voice in resolving to make sure our Reserve and Guard members have the equipment and support they need. We will now see that vote through.

I also note that reservists are particularly likely to come from the ranks of the Nation's first responders. For those police officers, firefighters, and EMTs who serve in the Reserves, they honor our Nation twice—providing hometown security and then putting on another uniform to provide national security. We need to make sure that the burdens placed on them and their families do not make it more difficult for them to serve.

It is my pleasure to be here today to address these issues and to make sure

that we join together in support of our troops and we do so recognizing not only their sacrifice but also the sacrifice their families make.

I would particularly like to recognize those Nebraskans serving in uniform. Right now, we have approximately 400 Nebraska Army National Guardsmen participating in peacekeeping missions in Bosnia and 675 Guardsmen serving in Afghanistan as part of Operations Enduring Freedom and Noble Eagle.

These men and women hail from Chadron, Gering, Scottsbluff, North Platte, Lincoln, Kearney, Falls City, Wahoo, Fremont and a number of other cities across our State. There is no part of Nebraska that is not represented overseas in our military.

Nebraskans are also represented by 25 members of the 24th Medical Company training for deployment to Kosovo as well as 125 Nebraska Air National Guardsmen deployed in regions around the world. I am very proud of the service of my fellow cornhuskers.

I had the opportunity this past fall to visit with a few of these troops serving at Aviano Air Force Base in Italy. It was a real pleasure to sit down with SSgt Michale Varney of Murray, SrA Aaron Mueller of Weeping Water, MSgt Edward Coufal of Plattsmouth, and Airman Elizabeth Ahrens of my hometown of McCook. I can honestly say that they are truly among the best Nebraskans that our State has ever produced.

Thank you for this opportunity to show my support for our troops.

The ACTING PRESIDING pro tempore. The Senator from Idaho.

Mr. CRAPO. Madam President, I also stand with the Senator from Texas, the Senator from Arkansas, the Senator from Nebraska—really, all the Senators—to take this opportunity to share our feelings about the support we have for our troops while they are engaged in this difficult battle in Iraq.

While our Nation fights the war on terrorism, taking on even more demanding and dangerous tasks, and is now actually headed into heated battle in the Arabian Peninsula, it is important that we remember just how important the United States military is to preserving and protecting our national security.

Each of us in the Senate and those we represent throughout the country owe a sincere debt of gratitude to the brave men and women in uniform. Our soldiers, sailors, and marines serve us with unselfish courage and epitomize the term "hero."

I will point out another brave group of men and women serving in harm's way. These are the thousands of our guardsmen and reservists who have been called to duty here in America and abroad.

On a sad note, I would like to share with my colleagues my heartfelt sadness over the death of Air National Guardsman Major Gregory Stone, from Idaho, who was killed on March 23.

Major Stone, serving as liaison with the Army's 101st Airborne Division in

Kuwait, was one of the victims of the grenade attack on the officers' tents at Camp Pennsylvania. Major Stone leaves behind two sons, Evan, age 11, and Joshua, age 7, and an entire community, State, and Nation in grief.

Major Stone's father said:

My son died to allow the guy who killed him to believe in what he believed.

As we know right now, it appears it is very possible that the cowardly attack that killed Major Stone may have been perpetrated by another fellow soldier. That is being investigated at the moment.

Major Stone, an Oregon native, was one of six Idaho Air National Guard members working as liaisons with the Army's 101st Airborne Division in Kuwait. He worked for 2 years at the Air Expeditionary Force Battlelab in Mountain Home, ID, as the lab's B-1 bomber expert. Since September, he was an independent assessor with the company that does contract work for the lab.

One of his colleagues, MAJ Thomas G. Westall, U.S. Air Force, Retired, said:

He paid the highest sacrifice for being a good soldier.

Major Stone is just one of those brave Americans who will be called upon to pay the highest sacrifice for our freedom. I commend him and all of those in our military who are putting their lives on the line to protect our freedom, and I express the gratitude of a grateful country for their service.

Idahoans, as all Americans have a long-standing tradition of service in our Nation's Armed Forces. As each of my colleagues here can attest, our States have called forward their best and bravest to protect our security and preserve our liberties. Idaho has a contingent of guardsmen, reservists, and mainline forces in the Persian Gulf and engaged in the war on terrorism.

The Gunfighters of Mountain Home Air Force Base are among the best trained forces in our military because they train at the world-class ordnance training facility in Southwest Idaho. Mountain Home offers the Air Force one of the best training bases in the world. With its good weather and unobstructed air space, our pilots can train almost year-round. As Air Force pilots from around the country can attest, the training range in Idaho keeps them on the cutting edge of combat effectiveness.

The Idaho Reserve and National Guard provide another vital military presence in our State. These citizen soldiers provide a critical service to our State and to our Nation. The Idaho Army National Guard, with 28 units throughout the State, has 3,500 members and, during the past year, has provided personnel for active duty service throughout the world. Very recently, elements of the Idaho Army National Guard completed an extended rotation in the Balkans.

The Air Guard, which has its headquarters at Gowen Field, has seen its

share of active duty as well, most recently being called to service following the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. The Air Guard's equipment includes C-130 transports, as well as the very capable close in support fighter, the A-10.

Units of the Army and Navy Reserve are also very active in Idaho. The Army Reserve has 11 units in the State with 750 personnel assigned while the Navy Reserve has approximately 250 members. Many reservists, from a host of specialties and backgrounds, ranging from civil affairs to logistics, have been called to active duty during the past year.

Each Idahoan in uniform has a demanding responsibility, and I am grateful for all they do. And right now, over 100,000 reservists nationwide have been placed on active service.

For the foreseeable future, our Armed Forces will be dealing with more and more demands. We are facing uncertainty in the Persian Gulf, and threats worldwide continue to loom. It will be difficult and tough duty for these brave people, but I have complete confidence in their ability to meet the tasks ahead. And I also know, that Idaho, with its long tradition of military service, will continue to play an important role in the defense of our Nation.

Many Americans have expressed their heartfelt appreciation of our troops. It is indeed tragic that the lives of many men and women are now being put in harm's way because Iraqi leaders would not to conform to international resolution that would have brought a peaceful end to this conflict. Sadly, we are seeing Iraq refuse to voluntarily end its support of terrorism and stop the threat from the weapons of mass destruction Iraq possesses.

My heart and my prayers are with our troops and their families. This is a time for support of all of those brave Americans being put at risk to defend our national security. We will win this conflict and end the multiple threats of weapons, terrorism, and continued instability in the Middle East the Iraqi dictator represents.

Every generation of Americans has faced the need to protect our freedoms, and we live in a new age where innocent Americans have died at the hands of terrorists. Our President has made the difficult decision that our national security is on the line and I fully support his decision.

Our President and the men and women in our Armed Forces will protect our freedom and continue to make out nation secure. We owe them our support, our prayers, and our hopes that this conflict is over as soon as possible.

There is much more I could say, but I conclude my remarks by, once again, coming back to the importance that I place on this Senate giving time each day, as we are now doing, to commend the men and women in uniform, whether they be our active military, or our

guardsmen or reservists, for putting their lives on the line for our freedom.

Every generation in America has had the opportunity, in some context or another, to defend our freedom. And these brave men and women are being called upon to risk the greatest sacrifice so we in America and people throughout the globe can continue to have the freedoms which we cherish so greatly.

I reserve the remainder of our time.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Arkansas.

Mrs. LINCOLN. Madam President, I now yield a portion of our time to the Senator from New Jersey, Mr. LAUTENBERG.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from New Jersey.

Mr. LAUTENBERG. Madam President, I thank our good friend from Arkansas.

Madam President, the floor is open principally to pay our respects to our citizens, our friends, and our neighbors who are serving now in the Iraqi theater to try to right a terrible wrong that has been perpetrated on the world; and that is, to make sure we get rid of the savage regime of Saddam Hussein and the threat he brings not only to the people in that region but to people across the world.

People recognize that were he to continue unfettered in his capacity to develop his military might, it would be quite incredible to witness. The fact is, we are there with so much force and so much skill and so much technology, and still we are facing constant obstacles to our mission of getting rid of the regime and reducing the threat or eliminating the threat that these weapons might bring to that area and to the world at large.

New Jersey is the home of McGuire Air Force Base. That is a base that has had members leaving for conflicts over the years, and particularly with the first gulf war in 1990 and presently, and other conflicts that we have seen, because of the mobility of an air wing that we have there to refuel aircraft in the air, both cargo and fighter craft, as well as carrying cargo of substantial proportion and need to the theater so our troops have facilities with which to take care of their needs personally as well as, unfortunately, those facilities that might be called upon if they are wounded or injured in any way.

At this moment, New Jersey has about 5,000 people deployed from various Reserve and regular Army and Marine units, as well as other branches of the military.

One person, SGT James Riley, was someone we saw on television not very long ago being questioned by his captors, the Iraqis. We have been trying to contact his family to offer our services in whatever way we can, and to see if we can find out something about how he is being treated, to make sure the rules of the Geneva Convention are observed to the letter in the treatment of prisoners. They cannot, under any kind of a rule of civilization or treaties,

manhandle prisoners. It is not permitted. You are not permitted to interview on public media. And you are not permitted to interrogate in public. We want the Iraqis to know there is a price to pay for that kind of action. We demand they observe all the conventions that relate to prisoners and their treatment.

Mr. BAYH. Mr. President, I rise today with great sadness and tremendous gratitude to honor the life of a brave young man from Atwood, IN. Lcpl David Fribley was 26 years old. He died Sunday in Nasiriyah, Iraq as he and his fellow Marines encountered Iraqi soldiers believed to be surrendering. Instead, the Iraqis opened fire, killing David Fribley and eight other Americans. David was there, in a far away land, to fight for the values we all hold close to our hearts.

David Fribley was the second Hoosier killed while dutifully serving his country in Operation Iraqi Freedom. Today, I mourn David's death with his family, friends and the Atwood community. While our pride in David shall certainly live on, so too will our sorrow. Even though David's life on Earth has been cut short, his bravery, and his strength of character shall live on as a powerful and consoling force during these difficult days of conflict.

David Fribley was a quiet and caring man who led by example, not mere words. He was adored by all who knew him for his soft-spoken manner and great sense of humor. He was compelled to leave his job working with the elderly and join the Marine Corps after witnessing the terrorist attacks of September 11. Upon his resignation David stated: "The greatest gift is the gift of service." This kind of selflessness is an inspiration to us all.

David leaves behind father Garry and mother Linda, brother Steven, who serves in the Air Force, and a fiancée. He attended Warsaw Community High School where he was a star athlete in both track and football. After high school he attended Indiana State University and graduated in 2001.

President Abraham Lincoln wrote in a letter to the mother of a fallen Union soldier: "I pray that our Heavenly Father may assuage the anguish of your bereavement, and leave you only the cherished memory of the loved and lost, and the solemn pride that must be yours to have laid so costly a sacrifice upon the altar of freedom." These words ring as true today as they did 140 years ago. As we mourn the loss of David Fribley and honor the sacrifice he made for America and for all of humanity.

It is my sad duty to enter the name of David Fribley in the official record of the U.S. Senate for his service to this country and for his profound commitment to freedom, democracy, and peace. When I think about this just cause in which we are engaged, and the unfortunate pain that comes with the loss of our heroes, I hope that families like David's can find comfort in the

word of the prophet Isaiah who said, "He will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from off all faces."

May God grant strength and peace to those who mourn, and may God bless the United States of America.

Mr. President, I also rise today with great sadness and tremendous gratitude to honor the life of a brave young man from Hobart, IN. Greg Sanders was just 19 year old. On Monday, March 24, 2003, he was with his Army unit, the 3rd Infantry, 3rd Battalion, 69th Armor Division, 1st Brigade, Company B, when he was mortally wounded by an Iraqi sniper bullet. Greg was in Iraq, far away from loved ones and fellow countrymen, to fight for the values of democracy we all hold close to our hearts.

Greg Sanders is the third Hoosier to be killed while dutifully serving our Nation in Operation Iraqi Freedom. Today, I mourn along with Greg's family, friends, and community. While our pride in him shall certainly live on, so too will our sorrow. Although Greg's life was cut short, his courage, and his dedication to the preservation of democracy will live on to serve as a guiding light in these dark days of war.

Greg Sanders was a natural born leader who always loved challenging himself in everything he did, whether it was on the bowling lane or the battlefield. From the time Greg was small, it was his dream to be a soldier. It was with great pride that he left for Iraq, prepared to do his duty and willing to make the ultimate sacrifice, if fate dictated, for a country he loved dearly.

Greg attended Hobart High School where he ran cross-country and began his training to become a soldier before his graduation in 2001. He leaves behind his mother Leslie Sanders, a brother, two sisters, his wife Ruthann, and their 1-year-old daughter, Gwendolyn. He will be greatly missed by his family, fellow soldiers, and the Hobart community as a whole.

President Abraham Lincoln wrote in a letter to the mother of a fallen Union soldier: "I pray that our Heavenly Father may assuage the anguish of your bereavement, and leave you only the cherished memory of the loved and lost, and the solemn pride that must be yours to have laid so costly a sacrifice upon the altar of freedom." These words ring as true today as they did 140 years ago, as we mourn the loss of Greg Sanders and honor the sacrifice he made for America and for all of humanity.

It is my sad duty to enter the name of Greg Sanders in the official record of the Senate for his service to this country and for his profound commitment to freedom, democracy, and peace. When I think about this just cause in which we are engaged, and the unfortunate pain that comes with the loss of our heroes, I hope that families like Greg's can find comfort in the word of the prophet Isaiah, who said: "He will swallow up death in victory; and the

Lord God will wipe away tears from off all faces."

May God grant strength and peace to those who mourn, and may God bless the United States of America.

TRIBUTE TO MAJOR ANTHONY D. "TONY" SINNOTT

Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Major Anthony D. "Tony" Sinnott. A former Flatwoods, KY native, Major Sinnott was recently awarded the Joint Service Commendation Medal for being chosen as the Reserve Officer of the Year for 2002.

Major Sinnott was chosen from 560 reserve officers from all the armed services serving the U.S. Central Command in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Sinnott received the award from General Tommy Franks, Combatant Commander of U.S. Central Command in Tampa, Florida.

The citizens of Flatwoods, KY, and the Commonwealth are proud of Major Sinnott's accomplishments. His example of hard work, determination, and patriotism are appreciated by all across the United States. As we continue to keep our soldiers deployed all around the world in our thoughts and prayers, I rise to also thank the thousands of men and women who wear our uniform and serve our Nation so courageously.

Mr. President, I thank the Senate in joining me to congratulate Major Sinnott on his service to the U.S. Marine Corps and our great Nation.

TRIBUTE TO SGT. BRADLEY KORTHAUS

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I rise today for the very sad purpose of honoring a fallen American.

I learned this morning that Sgt Bradley Korthaus of Davenport, Iowa, has died while in service to his country as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom. I would like to take this opportunity to salute his patriotism and his sacrifice.

Sgt Korthaus disappeared Monday during an operation in which he and three other Marines were swimming across a canal in southeastern Iraq, and his body has now been recovered.

This is the first Iowan who has died in the current conflict in Iraq and the news has hit home with me and my staff.

We all know that sacrifice is part of war, and the President has tried to prepare us for the inevitable losses; but it is impossible to fully prepare for the loss of a young life.

My prayers go out to Steve and Marilyn Korthaus who grieve for their son and to all of the family, friends, and neighbors who are touched by his passing.

There is nothing I can say that can take away the pain they must feel, but they should know that they are not alone in their grief.